

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) A control method for selecting and adjusting valve lift in an internal combustion engine with at least two cylinder groups, the method comprising:
- a first mode of operation to operate at least one valve in a first group of cylinders, said at least one valve in said first group of cylinders in a first valve lift mode, said first group of cylinders comprised of cylinders that are consecutive in a combustion sequence of said engine;
 - a second mode of operation to operate said at least one valve in said first group of cylinders in a second valve lift mode;
 - a third mode of operation to operate at least one valve in a second group of cylinders, said second group of cylinders in a first valve lift mode, said second group of cylinders comprised of cylinders that are consecutive in a combustion sequence of said engine, said second group of cylinders different from said first group of cylinders;
 - a fourth mode of operation to operate said second group of cylinders in a second valve lift mode;
- selecting between said first and said second modes of operation during a crank angle interval where valves in

said second cylinder group are opened and closed, and activating said selected mode; and

selecting between said third and said forth modes of operation during a crank angle interval where valves in said first cylinder group are opened and closed, and activating said selected mode.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said internal combustion engine is an in-line six-cylinder engine.
10. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said internal combustion engine is an in-line four-cylinder engine.
11. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said internal combustion engine is an eight-cylinder engine.
12. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said valves are electromechanical valves.
13. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said valves are mechanically actuated valves.
14. (New) An internal combustion engine with a first and a second group of cylinders the internal combustion engine comprising:
 - a first group of cylinders comprised of cylinders that are consecutive in a combustion sequence of said engine, at least one cylinder of said first group of cylinders having a valve with at least two lift modes;
 - a second group of cylinders comprised of cylinders that are consecutive in said combustion sequence of

said engine, at least one cylinder of said second group of cylinders having a valve with at least two lift modes, said second group different from said first group;

a first means for operating said first cylinder group in a first or second valve lift mode;

a second means for operating said second cylinder group in a first or second valve lift mode.

15. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said valves are mechanically actuated valves.
16. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein said mechanically actuated valve includes a locking device, and a first and a second position of said locking device, corresponding to a unlocked and a locked position, respectively.
17. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said valves are electromechanically actuated valves.
18. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said internal combustion engine is an in-line six-cylinder engine.
19. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said internal combustion engine is an in-line four-cylinder engine.
20. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said internal combustion engine is an eight-cylinder engine.